

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-24 (Cancelled)

25. (New) A method of processing a voice call at a mobile device, comprising:

storing a safe volume profile at the mobile device associated with a handsfree mode of operation, the safe volume profile providing a default volume setting selected to reduce the risk of damage to a user's hearing if the mobile device is operated in close proximity to the user's ear while in the handsfree mode of operation;

answering an incoming call with the mobile device;

selecting one of a plurality of operational modes other than the handsfree mode of operation to process the incoming call in a first selected operational mode having an associated regular volume profile that is higher than the default volume setting of the safe volume profile;

switching the mobile device from the first selected operational mode to a handsfree mode of operation while processing the incoming call; and

operating the mobile device in the handsfree mode of operation according to the safe volume profile so as to protect the hearing of the mobile device user.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, further comprising disabling adjustment of the volume level from the default volume setting of the safe volume profile for a predetermined time period after the user has switched the mobile device from the first selected operational mode to the handsfree mode of operation.

27. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the first selected operational mode is a handset mode of operation.

28. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the first selected operational mode is a headset mode of operation.

29. (New) The method of claim 25, further comprising:

defining a maximum safe volume in the safe volume profile; and  
preventing adjustment of the volume level from the default volume setting to a volume level that exceeds the maximum safe volume when in the handsfree mode of operation.

30. (New) The method of claim 25, further comprising:

switching the mobile device from the handsfree mode of operation back to the first selected operational mode while processing the incoming call; and  
operating the mobile device in the first selected operational mode according to the regular volume profile.

31. (New) The method of claim 25, further comprising:

prior to answering the incoming call with the mobile device, enabling a notification on the mobile device indicating the receiving of the incoming call.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising:

determining whether to answer the incoming call in response to the notification; and  
if the incoming call is not to be answered, then redirecting the voice call to a voicemail system associated with the mobile device.

33. (New) A mobile device, comprising:

a memory for storing a safe volume profile associated with a handsfree mode of operation, the safe volume profile providing a default volume setting selected to reduce the risk of damage to a user's hearing if the mobile device is operated in close proximity to the user's ear while in the handsfree mode of operation;

a transceiver for receiving and answering an incoming call;

a mode control system for selecting one of a plurality of operational modes other than the handsfree mode of operation to process the incoming call in a first selected operational mode having an associated regular volume profile that is higher than the default volume setting of the safe volume profile;

the mode control system further comprising means for switching the mobile device from the first selected operational mode to a handsfree mode of operation while processing the incoming call and means for operating the mobile device in the handsfree mode of operation according to the safe volume profile so as to protect the hearing of the mobile device user.

34. (New) The mobile device of claim 33, further comprising a volume control system for disabling adjustment of the volume level from the default volume setting of the safe volume profile for a predetermined time period after the user has switched the mobile device from the first selected operational mode to the handsfree mode of operation.

35. (New) The mobile device of claim 33, wherein the first selected operational mode is a handset mode of operation.

36. (New) The mobile device of claim 33, wherein the first selected operational mode is a headset mode of operation.

37. (New) The mobile device of claim 33, further comprising:

a volume control system for defining a maximum safe volume in the safe volume profile and for preventing adjustment of the volume level from the default volume setting to a volume level that exceeds the maximum safe volume when in the handsfree mode of operation.

38. (New) The mobile device of claim 33, wherein the mode control system further comprises:

means for switching the mobile device from the handsfree mode of operation back to the first selected operational mode while processing the incoming call; and

means for operating the mobile device in the first selected operational mode according to the regular volume profile.

39. (New) The mobile device of claim 33 further comprising:

a notification trigger system on the mobile device for notifying the user of a received voice call prior to answering the voice call.

40. (New) The mobile device of claim 39, further comprising:

means for determining whether to answer the incoming call in response to the notification; and

means, responsive to the determining means, for redirecting the voice call to a voicemail system associated with the mobile device.